

of either House of Congress may request the Comptroller General to review an economically significant rule as it is being developed. The Comptroller General shall submit a report no later than 180 calendar days after a committee request is received. This should allow Congress ample time to decide whether it wants to disapprove the rule under the Congressional Review Act. The Comptroller General's independent analysis of the rule shall include: an analysis of the potential benefits of the rule, the potential costs of the rule, any alternative approaches that could achieve the goal in a more cost-effective manner or that could produce greater net benefits, the extent to which the rule would affect State or local governments, and a summary of how the results of the analysis of the Comptroller General differ, if at all, from the results of agency analyses. The Comptroller General will have the discretion to develop the procedures for determining the priority of requests.

Mr. President, it is my hope that the "Truth in Regulating Act" will encourage Federal agencies to make better use of modern decisionmaking tools, such as risk assessment and benefit-cost analysis. Currently, these important tools often are viewed simply as options—options that aren't used as much or as well as they should be. The Governmental Affairs Committee has reviewed and developed a voluminous record showing that our regulatory process is not working as well as intended and is missing important opportunities to achieve greater benefits at less cost. On April 22, I chaired a hearing in which we heard testimony on the need for this proposal. The General Accounting Office has done important studies for Governmental Affairs and other committees showing that agency practices—in cost-benefit analysis, risk assessment, and in meeting transparency and disclosure requirements of laws and executive orders—need significant improvement. Many other authorities support these findings.

All of us benefit when government performs well and meets the needs of the people it serves. I want to thank BLANCHE LINCOLN, GEORGE VOINOVICH, BOB KERREY, and JOHN BREAU for joining me as original cosponsors of this bill. All of us on both sides of the aisle should pull together to improve the quality of our government. I urge by colleagues to support this important legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the "Truth in Regulating Act" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1244

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Truth in Regulating Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to—

- (1) increase the transparency of important regulatory decisions;
- (2) promote effective congressional oversight to ensure that agency rules fulfill statutory requirements in an efficient, effective, and fair manner; and
- (3) increase the accountability of Congress and the agencies to the people they serve.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the term—

- (1) "agency" has the meaning given such term under section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code;
- (2) "economically significant rule" means any proposed or final rule, including an interim or direct final rule, that may have an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities; and
- (3) "independent analysis" means a substantive review of the agency's underlying assessments and assumptions used in developing the regulatory action and whatever additional analysis the Comptroller General determines to be necessary.

SEC. 4. PILOT PROJECT FOR REPORT ON RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) REQUEST OF REVIEW.—When an agency develops or issues an economically significant rule, the Comptroller General of the United States may review the rule at the request of a committee of either House of Congress.

(2) REPORT.—The Comptroller General shall submit a report on each economically significant rule selected under paragraph (4) to the committees of jurisdiction in each House of Congress not later than 180 calendar days after a committee request is received. The report shall include an independent analysis of the economically significant rule by the Comptroller General using any relevant data or analyses available to or generated by the General Accounting Office.

(3) INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS.—The independent analysis of the economically significant rule by the Comptroller General under paragraph (2) shall include—

(A) an analysis of the potential benefits of the rule, including any beneficial effects that cannot be quantified in monetary terms and the identification of the persons or entities likely to receive the benefits;

(B) an analysis of the potential costs of the rule, including any adverse effects that cannot be quantified in monetary terms and the identification of the persons or entities likely to bear the costs;

(C) an analysis of alternative approaches that could achieve the statutory goal in a more cost-effective manner or that could provide greater net benefits, and, if applicable, a brief explanation of any reason why such alternatives could not be adopted;

(D) an analysis of the extent to which the rule would affect State or local governments; and

(E) a summary of how the results of the analysis of the Comptroller General differ, if at all, from the results of the analyses of the agency in promulgating the rule.

(4) PROCEDURES FOR PRIORITIES OF REQUESTS.—The Comptroller General shall have discretion to develop procedures for determining the priority and number of requests for review under paragraph (1) for which a report will be submitted under paragraph (2).

(b) COOPERATION WITH COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Each agency shall cooperate with the Comptroller General by promptly providing the Comptroller General with such records and information that the Comptroller Gen-

eral determines necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the General Accounting Office to carry out this Act \$5,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2000 through 2002.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION OF PILOT PROJECT.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) DURATION OF PILOT PROJECT.—The pilot project under this Act shall continue for a period of 3 years, if in each fiscal year, or portion thereof included in that period, a specific annual appropriation not less than \$5,200,000 or the pro-rated equivalent thereof shall have been made for the pilot project.

(c) REPORT.—Before the conclusion of the 3-year period, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report reviewing the effectiveness of the pilot project and recommending whether or not Congress should permanently authorize the pilot project.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 51

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 51, a bill to reauthorize the Federal programs to prevent violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 61

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 61, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to eliminate disincentives to fair trade conditions.

S. 285

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

S. 472

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 472, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide certain medicare beneficiaries with an exemption to the financial limitations imposed on physical, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy services under part B of the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 495, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to repeal the highway sanctions.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to provide assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers.

S. 660

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 660, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under part B of the medicare program of medical nutrition therapy services furnished by registered dietitians and nutrition professionals.

S. 801

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 801, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 892, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the subpart F exemption for active financing income.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. CLELAND, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 894, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of a program under which long-term care insurance is made available to Federal employees and annuitants, and for other purposes.

S. 1010

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1010, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a medical innovation tax credit for clinical testing research expenses attributable to academic medical centers and other qualified hospital research organizations.

S. 1132

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1132, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the reinvestment of employee stock ownership plan dividends without the loss of any dividend reduction.

S. 1145

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1145, a bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, and for other purposes.

S. 1209

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1209, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore pension limits to equitable levels, and for other purposes.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a

cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to restrict United States assistance for certain reconstruction efforts in the Balkans region of Europe to United States-produced articles and services.

SENATE RESOLUTION 117

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 117, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the United States share of any reconstruction measures undertaken in the Balkans region of Europe on account of the armed conflict and atrocities that have occurred in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia since March 24, 1999.

SENATE RESOLUTION 118

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 118, a resolution designating December 12, 1999, as "National Children's Memorial Day."

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 41—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, AND PARTICULARLY THE RECENT ARRESTS OF MEMBERS OF THAT COUNTRY'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 41

Whereas 10 percent of the citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran are members of religious minority groups;

Whereas, according to the State Department and internationally recognized human rights organizations, such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, religious minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran—including Sunni Muslims, Baha'is, Christians, and Jews—have been the victims of human rights violations solely because of their status as religious minorities;

Whereas the 55th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights passed Resolution 1999/13, which expresses the concern of the international community over "continued discrimination against religious minorities" in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and calls on that country to moderate its policy on religious minorities until they are "completely emancipated";

Whereas more than half the Jews in Iran have been forced to flee that country since the Islamic Revolution of 1979 because of religious persecution, and many of them now reside in the United States;

Whereas the Iranian Jewish community, with a 2,500-year history and currently numbering some 30,000 people, is the oldest Jewish community living in the Diaspora;

Whereas five Jews have been executed by the Iranian government in the past five years without having been tried;

Whereas there has been a noticeable increase recently in anti-Semitic propaganda in the government-controlled Iranian press;

Whereas, on the eve of the Jewish holiday of Passover 1999, thirteen or more Jews, including community and religious leaders in

the city of Shiraz, were arrested by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

Whereas, in keeping with its dismal record on providing accused prisoners with due process and fair treatment, the Islamic Republic of Iran failed to charge the detained Jews with any specific crime or allow visitation by relatives of the detained for more than two months; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That it is the sense of the Congress that the Clinton administration should—

(1) be commended for supporting Resolution 1999/13, and should continue to work through the United Nations to assure that the Islamic Republic of Iran implements that resolution's recommendations;

(2) condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the recent arrest of members of Iran's Jewish minority and urge their immediate release;

(3) urge all nations having relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran to condemn the treatment of religious minorities in Iran and call for the release of all prisoners held on the basis of their religious beliefs; and

(4) maintain the current United States policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran unless and until that country moderates its treatment of religious minorities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 125—ENCOURAGING AND PROMOTING GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS IN THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES AND DESIGNATING JUNE 20, 1999, AS "NATIONAL FATHER'S RETURN DAY"

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. MACK, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. ROBB, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. GORTON, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. THURMOND) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 125

Whereas more than 1 out of every 3 children currently live in a household where the child's father does not reside;

Whereas approximately half of all the children born in the United States will spend at least half of their childhood in a family without a father figure;

Whereas approximately 40 to 50 percent of all marriages are predicted to end in divorce;

Whereas approximately 3 out of every 5 divorcing couples have at least 1 child;

Whereas almost half of all children aged 11 through 16 that live in mother-headed homes have not seen their father in the last 12 months;

Whereas 79 percent of people in the United States believe that the most significant family or social problem facing the country is the physical absence of fathers from the home, resulting in a lack of involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of children;

Whereas the likelihood that a young male will engage in criminal activity doubles if he is reared without a father and triples if he lives in a neighborhood comprised largely of single-parent families;

Whereas studies reveal that even in high-crime, inner city neighborhoods, over 90 percent of children from safe, stable, 2-parent homes do not become delinquents;